Setting up of National Quality Council

1950. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Quality Council (NQC), a high-level autonomous body which will monitor and accredit companies for meeting mandatory standards of production, to replace the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(b) if so, its broad features, composition and functions;

(c) whether the European Union is expected to provide some funds for the project; if so, how much and the nature of expert, technical and other assistance, likely to be given by it; and

(d) how far will it differ from the existing BIS as a policy making body?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The matter of Setting up of National Quality Council (NQC) is still under the consideration of the Government. However, it is not envisaged to replace the Bureau of Indian Standards, which is functioning as per BIS Act 1986.

Consumer cases in the country

1951. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge pile-up of consumer cases in the country at present;

(b) if so, details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that frequent adjournments of consumer cases by presiding officers lead to delays; and

(d) whether Government are considering to amend the consumer court procedure to avoid delay; details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry compiles such information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available, a statement has been prepared and is given as Annexure. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 45]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This aspect could be taken care of under the present provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder itself.

Sugar Released through PDS

1952. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual proportion of the total releases of sugar that have been released through the Public Distribution System during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) whether Gvoernment have any proposal to revert to the arrangements prevalent in the early decades following independence when 65 to 70 per cent of sugar released was through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Under the present policy of partial control, being followed continuously since 17.12.1979, a specified percentage of the total production of each sugar factory is procured as levy sugar at notified ex-factory prices for distribution through the public Distribution System at a uniform retail issue price throughout the country. The ratio of levy to free sale sugar during the last four years in given as under:—

Sugar Season (October to September)	Ratio of Levy	Freesale
1991-92	45	55